	Application No.	**Applicant(s)**
Notice of Allowability	10/608,764	ALLEN ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	THOMAS M. HAMMOND III	3695

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the Applicant's response filed 08 June 2009*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1,3-6 and 8-14*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

     (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

         1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____

     (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   This action is in reply to Applicant's response filed on 08 June 2009.

2.   Claims 1, 3, 6, and 11-14 have been amended.

3.   Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 have been amended by Examiner's Amendment.

4.   Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled by Examiner's Amendment.

5.   Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-14 are currently pending, have been examined, and have been deemed allowable.

Response to Arguments

6.   **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101**

7.   Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner appreciates the Applicant's prompt attention to these deficiencies and hereby withdraws such rejections.

8.   **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103**

9.   The Applicant's amendments to the claimed invention have overcome the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejections to claims 1-14 have been withdrawn.

Reasons for Allowance

10.   The Applicant's claimed invention is directed toward a method, system, and computer readable medium for providing travel expense reports.   Prior art methods and systems consist of various travel-related expense management techniques to track and account for business costs. For example, Schoolery et al. (5,570,283) discloses a corporate travel controller which interconnects travelers, travel agents, and airline customer reservation systems (CRSs) to monitor the costs associated with the travel process.   Similarly, Buchanan (6,009,408) discloses a database management system for storing records associated with travel expenses including itineraries, costs, and other travel related details.   However, none of the cited references nor the prior art disclose a system for providing travel expense reports which includes connecting a plurality of disparate travel sources and a plurality of disparate financial sources and conditioning the data extracted from these sources into a single format based on metadata operations gathered from parsing a natural language query received for requesting a travel expense report. Accordingly, the claimed invention, in light of the Examiner's Amendment, is deemed allowable.

Examiner's Amendment

11.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

12.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard Sobelman on 17 September 2009.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A computerized method for providing a travel expense report to users, comprising:

receiving, at a transaction processor, a request for the travel expense report, wherein the request includes data selection criteria comprising a corporate transaction account provider identifier, an air sector, and a fare basis code, and wherein the transaction processor is a host computer;

parsing, by the transaction processor, the request to retrieve the data selection criteria from a natural language query in response to the request including the natural language query, wherein the data selection criteria includes metadata comprising:

              (i) instructions for where to access travel transaction data,

              (ii) instructions for where to access financial account data,

              (iii) instructions for how to access the travel transaction data,

              (iv) instructions for how to access the financial account data,

              (v) instructions for retrieving travel transaction data,

              (vi) instructions for retrieving financial account data,

              (vii) protocols that are used to access the travel transaction data,

              (viii) protocols that are used to access the financial account data,

              (ix) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate travel sources,

              (x) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate travel sources,

              (xi) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate financial sources,

(xii) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate financial sources, and

(xiii) a defined relationship between attributes and metrics of the natural language query and target data sources;

receiving, at the transaction processor, a categorized view instruction, wherein the categorized view instruction determines a data placement and format for the travel expense report;

formatting, by the transaction processor, the data selection criteria in accordance with the metadata, wherein the plurality of disparate travel sources comprise at least one of: a Customer Reservations System (CRS) and an air carrier which store the travel transaction data including travel cost data;

and wherein the plurality of disparate financial sources comprise financial account providers which store the financial transaction account data including financial charge data;

retrieving, by the transaction processor, the financial transaction account data, including the financial charge data, from at least one of the plurality of disparate financial sources in accordance with the data selection criteria;

retrieving, by the transaction processor, the travel transaction data from at least one of the plurality of disparate travel sources in accordance with the data selection criteria, wherein the travel transaction data includes the travel cost data, the air sectors, and the fare basis codes provided by the air carrier and, wherein the travel transaction data is obtained by the transaction processor;

adding, by the transaction processor, proprietary information to the financial transaction account data and the travel transaction data, wherein the proprietary information relates to a host supplier network;

adding, by the transaction processor, to the travel expense report, line item detail including the financial charge data from the financial transaction account data and from the travel transaction data;

positioning, by the transaction processor, each of the data elements in accordance with the categorized view instruction, wherein the data elements are marked as billed or unbilled;

conditioning, by the transaction processor, the data elements to transform the data elements into the travel expense report for transmission to a client;

converting the financial transaction account data and the transaction data from the disparate travel sources and the disparate financial sources into a single format; and

sending, by the transaction processor, the travel expense report to a client, wherein the client analyzes the travel expense report to determine a level of spend for a defined item over a defined time.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further including transforming the processed financial transaction account data into a report.

4.   (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further including:

receiving a query associated with the request;

processing the financial transaction account data and the travel transaction data to extract account data satisfying parameters of the query; and

sending the extracted account data to a client.

5.   (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further including formatting the extracted account data into a report.

6.   (currently amended) A computerized method for a user to obtain a travel expense report, comprising:

submitting, using a computerized input device, a request for the travel expense report, wherein the request includes data selection criteria comprising a corporate transaction account provider identifier, an air sector, and a fare basis code and, wherein the request causes a host processor to:

parse the request to retrieve the data selection criteria from a natural language query in response to the request including the natural language query, wherein the data selection criteria includes metadata comprising:

(i) instructions for where to access travel transaction data,

(ii) instructions for where to access financial account data,

(iii) instructions for how to access the travel transaction data,

(iv) instructions for how to access the financial account data,

(v) instructions for retrieving travel transaction data,

(vi) instructions for retrieving financial account data,

(vii) protocols that are used to access the travel transaction data,

(viii) protocols that are used to access the financial account data,

(ix) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate travel sources,

(x) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate travel sources,

(xi) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate financial sources,

(xii) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate financial sources, and

(xiii) a defined relationship between attributes and metrics of the natural language query and

target data sources;

receive a categorized view instruction, wherein the categorized view instruction determines a data

placement and format for the travel expense report;

format the data selection criteria in accordance with the metadata, wherein the plurality of disparate travel

sources comprise at least one of a Customer Reservations System (CRS) and an air carrier which store the travel

transaction data including travel cost data;

and wherein the plurality of disparate financial sources comprise financial account providers which store

the financial transaction account data including financial charge data;

retrieve the financial transaction account data, including the financial charge data, from at least one of the

plurality of disparate financial sources in accordance with the data selection criteria;

retrieve the travel transaction data from at least one of the plurality of disparate travel sources in

accordance with the data selection criteria, wherein the travel transaction data includes the travel cost data, the air

sectors, and the fare basis codes provided by the air carrier and, wherein the travel transaction data is obtained by the

transaction processor;

add proprietary information to the financial transaction account data and the travel transaction data,

wherein the proprietary information relates to a host supplier network;

condition the data elements to transform the data elements into the travel expense report, wherein the travel

expense report includes line item detail including financial charge data from the financial transaction account data

and travel transaction data**, and convert the financial transaction account data and the transaction data from the disparate travel sources and the disparate financial sources into a single format;**

position each of the data elements in accordance with the categorized view instruction, wherein the data elements are marked as billed or unbilled; and

send the travel expense report to a client, wherein the client analyzes the travel expense report to determine a level of spend for a defined item over a defined time.

7.   (canceled)

8.   (previously presented) The method of claim 7, further including receiving the travel expense report within a formatted report.

9.   (previously presented) The method of claim 8, farther including:

submitting a query associated with the request, wherein the query causes the host to process the retrieved transaction financial account data and the travel transaction data to extract account data satisfying parameters of the query; and

receiving the extracted account data.

10.   (previously presented) The method of claim 9, further including receiving the extracted account data within a formatted report.

11.   (currently amended) A system for providing an on-line travel expense report, the system configured to:

receive a request for the travel expense report, wherein the request is created at a computerized input device and is received by the system over a computer network, and wherein the request includes data selection criteria comprising a corporate transaction account provider identifier, an air sector, and a fare basis code;

parse the request to retrieve the data selection criteria from a natural language query in response to the request including the natural language query, wherein the data selection criteria includes metadata comprising

(i) instructions for where to access travel transaction data,

(ii) instructions for where to access financial account data,

(iii) instructions for how to access the travel transaction data,

(iv) instructions for how to access the financial account data,

(v) instructions for retrieving travel transaction data,

(vi) instructions for retrieving financial account data,

(vii) protocols that are used to access the travel transaction data,

(viii) protocols that are used to access the financial account data,

(ix) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate travel sources,

(x) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate travel sources,

(xi) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate financial sources,

(xii) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate financial sources, and

(xiii) a defined relationship between attributes and metrics of the natural language query and target

data sources;

receive a categorized view instruction, wherein the categorized view instruction determines a data

placement and format for the travel expense report;

format the data selection criteria in accordance with the metadata, wherein the plurality of disparate travel

sources comprise at least one of: a Customer Reservations System (CRS) and an air carrier which store the travel

transaction data including travel cost data; and

wherein the plurality of disparate financial sources comprise financial account providers which store the

financial transaction account data including financial charge data;

retrieve, from a database, the financial transaction account data, including the financial charge data, from at

least one of the plurality of disparate financial sources in accordance with the data selection criteria;

retrieve the travel transaction data from at least one of the plurality of disparate travel sources in

accordance with the data selection criteria, wherein the travel transaction data includes the travel cost data, the air

sectors, and the fare basis codes provided by the air carrier and, wherein the travel transaction data is obtained by the

transaction processor;

add proprietary information to the financial transaction account data and the travel transaction data, wherein the proprietary information relates to a host supplier network;

add to the travel expense report, line item detail including the financial charge data from the financial transaction account data and from the travel transaction data;

position each of the data elements in accordance with the categorized view instruction, wherein the data elements are marked as billed or unbilled;

~~a processor for conditioning~~ **condition** the data elements to create the travel expense report for transmission to a client;

convert the financial transaction account data and the transaction data from the disparate travel sources and the disparate financial sources into a single format; and

send the travel expense report to a client, wherein the client analyzes the travel expense report to determine a level of spend for a defined item over a defined time.

12.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium, tangibly embodied with instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform the steps comprising:

receiving a request for account data;

retrieving data from multiple sources to obtain the account data;

conditioning the account data for transmission to a client computer;

receiving the requested account data on-line;

submitting a request for account data, wherein the request includes data selection criteria comprising a corporate transaction account provider identifier, an air sector, and a fare basis code and, wherein the request causes a host to:

parse the request to retrieve the data selection criteria from a natural language query in response to the request including the natural language query, wherein the data selection criteria includes metadata comprising:

(i) instructions for where to access travel transaction data,

(ii) instructions for where to access financial account data,

(iii) instructions for how to access the travel transaction data,

(iv) instructions for how to access the financial account data,

(v) instructions for retrieving travel transaction data,

(vi) instructions for retrieving financial account data,

(vii) protocols that are used to access the travel transaction data,

(viii) protocols that are used to access the financial account data,

(ix) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate travel sources,

(x) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate travel sources,

(xi) a location identifier corresponding to a plurality of disparate financial sources,

(xii) protocol instructions for the plurality of disparate financial sources, and

(xiii) a defined relationship between attributes and metrics of the natural language query and target data sources;

receive a categorized view instruction, wherein the categorized view instruction determines a data placement and format for the travel expense report;

format the data selection criteria in accordance with the metadata, wherein the plurality of disparate travel sources comprise at least one of a Customer Reservations System (CRS) and an air carrier which store the travel transaction data including travel cost data;

and wherein the plurality of disparate financial sources comprise financial account providers which store the financial transaction account data including financial charge data;

retrieve the financial transaction account data, including the financial charge data, from at least one of the plurality of disparate financial sources in accordance with the data selection criteria;

retrieve the travel transaction data from at least one of the plurality of disparate travel sources in accordance with tile data selection criteria, wherein the travel transaction data includes the travel cost data, the air sectors, and the fare basis codes provided by the air carrier and, wherein the travel transaction data is obtained by the transaction processor;

add proprietary information to the financial transaction account data and the travel transaction data, wherein the proprietary information relates to a host supplier network;

condition the data elements to transform the data elements into a travel expense report, wherein the travel expense report includes line item detail including financial charge data from the financial transaction account data and travel transaction data;

convert the financial transaction account data and the transaction data from the disparate travel sources and the disparate financial sources into a single format;

position each of the data elements in accordance with the categorized view instruction, wherein the data elements are marked as billed or unbilled; and

send the travel expense report to the client computer, wherein a user the client computer analyzes the travel expense report to determine a level of spend for a defined item over a defined time.

13.   (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the disparate financial sources include regional providers of the corporate transaction account that operate as at least one of: a wholly owned organization, a franchise, and a partnership.

14.   (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein loyalty points are applied to said travel cost data in order to offset the financial charge data in an amount equal to a value of said loyalty points.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS M. HAMMOND III whose telephone number is (571)270-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Kyle can be reached on (571) 272-674646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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03 November 2009

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